

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

We are writing to request that the next COVID-19 stimulus package include language mandating that lenders participating in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) prioritize businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans, and those in underserved and rural markets; and that you set aside a portion of the PPP funding for smaller community lenders, such as credit unions and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided \$349 billion for the creation of the Paycheck Protection Program within the Small Business Administration (SBA), which enables lenders to provide 100 percent SBA-backed loans to small- and medium-sized businesses to cover payroll costs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the rollout of PPP on April 3, 2020, small businesses have complained of being unable to access applications.

There are concerns that large banks, which are processing requests for billions of dollars are preventing smaller SBA-approved lenders, like credit unions and community banks, from fulfilling applications. In addition, there are concerns that large banks prioritizing their existing customers could hurt small businesses, which are more likely to work with Main Street institutions like credit unions and community banks. This has barred some of the most vulnerable small businesses from being able to apply for PPP loans.

The CARES Act provided that the SBA “Administrator should provide guidance to [PPP] lenders and agents to ensure that the processing and disbursement of covered loans prioritizes small business concerns and entities in underserved and rural markets, including veterans and members of the military community, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as defined in section 8(d)(3)(C)), women, and businesses in operation for less than 2 years.” (*page 30, line 3*). As of this writing, SBA still has not issued this guidance to lenders.

We are asking Congressional Leadership to *mandate* that lenders prioritize PPP loans for small businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans, and those in underserved and rural markets in the next stimulus package. We are also asking that Leadership set aside part of the PPP funding for smaller community lenders, such as credit unions and CDFIs.

Small businesses are the backbone of the economy. They make up ninety-nine percent of businesses in America. It is essential that we support and protect the most vulnerable businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without access to these important loans, many small businesses will be forced to close their doors permanently.

Thank you for consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Shelia Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Al Lawson  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Mike Levin  
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

Alma Adams  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

Donna E. Shalala  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress